

Vision 2000 reaffirms role of Ont. colleges

The community college system has a vital role to play in Ontario's social and economic development, according to the final report of Vision 2000.

Vision 2000: Quality and Opportunity was released last month by Colleges and Universities Minister Sean Conway. It represents the culmination of a two-year review of the mandate of Ontario's colleges, conducted under the direction of the Ontario Council of Regents.

The report, with its 40 recommendations to the government concerning Ontario's 23 colleges, reaffirms the original mandate of the 25-year-old system, while recommending significant changes and new directions to improve colleges' capacity to face future challenges.

One of the most important themes of the report is its emphasis on accessibility. Far from favouring increased specialization by colleges, the report recommends that accessibility be extended to an even more diverse range of learners.

Also of considerable significance is the report's recommendation that college programs be restructured to focus on general education and the development of generic skills to prepare students for long-term employability.

The report also calls for the creation of uniform standards for all programs across the system and a College Standards Accreditation Council to set and review those standards.

Linkages between secondary schools and colleges, and between



A TRUE STORYMAKER — Children's author Jean Little (left) and her guide dog Zephyr are welcomed to the Storymakers conference in mid-August by organizers Peggy Needham, English and Liberal Studies Co-ordinator, and Peter Carver, who teaches a continuing education writing course at the College. The keynote speaker at the conference, Little has written more than 15 children's novels, including a recent autobiography, *Little by Little*. Held at the St. James Campus, Storymakers attracted 136 writers and aspiring writers of children's literature.

universities and colleges should be sought, says the report, which also advocates the need for a provincial institute of advanced training; ideally an institute "without walls" provided through college-university arrangements. The report also focuses on the increasing importance of part-time students in an era of life-long learning, and the need for a variety of flexible learning opportunities.

Since its inception in October, 1988 by then Minister of Colleges and Universities, Lyn McLeod, Vision 2000 has been a broadly based process of research, consultation and debate.

Representatives of George Brown played a significant role throughout that process. For example, the following people were study team members or authors of background papers: Shirley Holloway, Dean of Technology and Science; Bob Struthers, Acting Vice-President, Academic; Terry Dance, Dean of Access

and Program Development; Maureen Hynes, Multicultural Co-ordinator, Community Outreach Department; former Vice-President, Academic, Garth Jackson; Karen O'Kain, a faculty member on secondment to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities; and faculty member Irene Ross.

In addition, George Brown staff and students participated in campus-based discussion sessions about the future of George Brown and the college system in general. At a day-long retreat at the Chelsea Inn, about 100 George Brown staff and community stakeholders participated in discussions about the future role of George Brown in the community. A report was produced from the various activities and submitted to Vision 2000.

In releasing the Vision 2000 final report, Conway invited educators and other interested parties to submit comments to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities' College Affairs Branch by Nov. 30.



Sharing a vision for the future

This summer, we've seen the release of what are perhaps the two most important reports of the past decade on education and training in Ontario.

The long-awaited Vision 2000 review of the mandate of Ontario's colleges was released last month. A week later, the Ontario Premier's Council Report, *People and Skills in the New Global Economy*, recommended a series of reforms for education and training.

Both reports will have considerable impact on the way we do business at the College. This column will focus on Vision 2000; next month, the Premier's Council Report will be addressed.

It's important to remember that Vision 2000 is not yet government policy. It is simply a report to the government making recommendations for changes to the community college system.

George Brown College will be preparing a response to Vision 2000. In addition to various arrangements that will be made to elicit feedback throughout the College, a special Board of Governors retreat will be held in early November to discuss the report.

It is my personal prediction that reaction to Vision 2000 at George Brown will be largely favourable, simply because the report matches so closely with our own vision for the future.

You may recall that in this column two years ago — August, 1988 — I detailed nine trends that I felt were significant to the direction George Brown was taking. Among those, I spoke of:

- the need for George Brown to increase its accessibility to new audiences in the community, including senior citizens, employed people (part-time learners), individuals with special needs and graduates looking for post-diploma studies;

- the need to review curricula, with a view to providing more general education as the community and the workplace shift their demand for graduates who are not just well-trained but also well-educated;
- the need for strong and meaningful partnerships or linkages with other educational institutions — secondary schools and universities.

In these and many other areas addressed, George Brown has made major inroads over the past two years.

That is not to say that Vision 2000 has nothing new to offer George Brown: The report sets into motion a great deal of important work that we must do; but there is something very affirming about the fact that we are already moving in the right direction.

Vision 2000 represents the support of a general consensus; the wholehearted go-ahead to emphasize and accelerate the work we've already begun. It reaffirms the community college system in Ontario, while challenging that same system to grow and expand into an even more dynamic and exciting role in the future.

It is a challenge I'm confident George Brown will meet.

George Brown in step with Vision 2000 report

Many of the themes and recommendations expressed in the final report of Vision 2000 are already well underway at George Brown, say its Acting Academic Vice-President and Dean of Technology and Science.

"We're very pleased with the recommendations that have come out of the study because many coincide with initiatives that are already well evolved at George Brown," says Bob Struthers, Acting Vice-President, Academic and the Vision 2000 Co-ordinator for George Brown.

What the report does, says Shirley Holloway, Dean of Technology and Science and a member of the Vision 2000 steering committee, is "reaffirms and then builds on the original mandate of the colleges, so that many of the things we're already doing at George Brown are

expressed in Vision 2000."

For example, says Struthers, a major focus of the report is on the need for colleges to be widely accessible to the communities they serve. "That ties in with our action two years ago in creating an Access division to bring together relevant services and programs to make the College more accessible."

Struthers says the report's interest in educational equity and community outreach also coincides with existing George Brown initiatives.

"We feel strongly that we have been a leader in the college system in the area of community outreach and race relations. In fact, George Brown's activities are referred to in several Vision 2000 documents."

Holloway's Technology division has already done a great deal of work in establishing uniform

standards with other colleges across the system. "I'm thrilled with the report because what it really gives us is a mandate to go ahead with what we've already been doing," says Holloway.

George Brown has also moved to establish linkages with other educational systems, such as the Toronto Board of Education, the York Board of Education, the Metropolitan Toronto Separate School Board and with York University and Ryerson.

What it comes down to, says Struthers, is that "we don't have to restructure, reorganize or recreate George Brown as a result of Vision 2000." Struthers says, however, the College will have much work to do in examining the report's recommendations for more general education and generic skills in college curricula.

Events

Sept. 3 - Labour Day holiday.
College closed.

Sept. 4 - Most post-secondary, full-time classes commence.

Sept. 5 - Orientation barbecue. St. James Campus, 11:30 a.m., upstairs patio. Hot dogs and pop will be on sale. Sponsored by the Student Administrative Council.

Sept. 11 - Board of Governors meeting, 500 MacPherson Ave., Boardroom, 5 p.m. For information call Pat Smith at 944-4473.

Sept. 12 - Hypnotic fun with Mike Mandel. The hypnotist/magician performs in the St. James Campus atrium at noon. Sponsored by the Student Administrative Council.

Sept. 13 - College Council Meeting, 500 MacPherson Ave., Boardroom, 8:45 a.m. Call Brian Cooper at 867-2231 for more information.

Sept. 17 - Advisory Committee for Equity general meeting, 8:30 a.m., Casa Loma Boardroom, Room C318, 160 Kendal Ave. Sub-committees will be established for the 1990-91 academic year. All welcome. Call June Kingshott at 944-4621 for more information.

Sept. 23 - George Brown walks the United Way. Take a step in the right direction — join the George Brown College walking team at Nathan Phillips Square, 2 p.m. All proceeds go to the 1990 United Way Campaign. Call Tina Kirby at 867-2061 for more information.

Sept. 24 - Free Career Development and Information Workshop, 6 p.m., St. James Campus, 200 King St. E., Room 321. For registration information call 867-2059. Sponsored by the Continuing Education and Marketing, and Access Divisions.

Oct. 2 - Board of Governors meeting, 500 MacPherson Ave., Boardroom, 5 p.m. For information call Pat Smith

College must respond to needs of community, Board member says

If a void exists, fill it. That's good business sense; and as Alex Yeung learned from first-hand experience, it's a good barometer for establishing college programs.

Yeung joined George Brown's Board of Governors in January, 1989, but his relationship with the College began 10 years ago. The owner of a Chinese restaurant at the time, he was unable to find qualified chefs in Toronto.

"At first I had to import all my chefs from Hong Kong," he says.

Yeung and his colleagues at the Ontario Chinese Restaurant Association approached George Brown about

developing a new cooking program, and became instrumental in establishing the Chinese Cuisine program in the School of Hospitality.

"It's a simple matter of supply and demand," says Yeung. "I recognized a market for qualified Chinese cuisine chefs, and George Brown was able to respond quickly and meet that need."

Now a regional manager for London Life Insurance, Yeung says the College must continue to respond to the needs of the community —

including employers and potential students.

"Toronto's demographics are changing," he says. "As a college, we must accommodate our multicultural community so we can address the changing employment needs in our society."

Yeung says that in the next decade all industries will experience a dramatic increase in internationalization. The global community is a growing reality, he says, and Canada's potential strength lies in its ability to assimilate and utilize the experience and knowledge of new citizens from other cultures.

"New Canadians play a large role in our future," says Yeung. "The George Brown College race relations policy is a positive indicator of the increased emphasis the College is placing on addressing multicultural issues."

Yeung's interest in multiculturalism extends beyond his work with George Brown. He was recently appointed to the Multiculturalism Advisory Committee; a federal government initiative to address national multicultural issues.



Alex Yeung

Photo: Tina Kirby

New computer lab at St. James

A new, \$130,000 computer lab in the St. James Campus Learning Resource Centre is open for business.

The lab is now open "on a limited basis for testing the systems," and will be fully operational by the end of September, says John Hardy, Associate Director of Educational Resources.

Library-card-carrying students will have access to the lab's 21 computer work-stations and variety of software for independent study during library hours.

The lab boasts two computer networks — a Novell 386 with 17 work-stations and a Tops with 4 Mac work-stations — as well as three CD players, draft and laser printers, and two laser

disk work-stations.

Hardy says only a limited amount of software is currently on the system, or on order, including WordPerfect 5.0, Algebra, Bank Street Writer, Learncom and Lotus, and MacWrite, Paint and Draw, but more will be added after consultation with academic divisions.

Co-operation with all divisions, throughout the project, has been good, says Hardy. "It helps us to be more relevant in terms of resources and more supportive of the academic function," he said.

Plans are underway for a similar centre at Casa Loma Campus.

Names in the News



Mary Jane Navarro, a second-year Retail Management student, was one of 10 students and graduates featured in a summer ad campaign in the Toronto Star and Sun to increase full-time student enrolment. Directed at adults wanting to change careers, the campaign used the theme "I've Changed" and featured testimonials from individuals who attended full-time programs at George Brown to make career changes. Readers were invited to call the College's Information Services Office during extended office hours, and to attend a free Career Development and Information Workshop. During the ad campaign, more than 220 people registered for the free workshops.

New Canadians can learn how to put their entrepreneurial ideas to work at George Brown College. The Newcomers Enterprise Centre – which was established in 1987 by the George Brown College Foundation to serve Metro Toronto's ethnocultural population – officially opened at the Kensington Campus last May. The Centre moved from its previous location at the Casa Loma Campus to be more accessible to its clients.

"Our mandate is to assist those who are considered 'socially or economically disadvantaged' but have a great potential and interest in starting their own

business," says Art Seib, Business Consultant.

The centre's services include in-depth counselling, community seminars, an information area and a training program for immigrant women. Call 867-2370 for more information.

After 25 years in the Computer Services Department, **Sophie Amanatides** is looking forward to talking to people instead of computers. The retiring data entry clerk started working at George Brown as a keypunch operator in 1965 — two years after arriving in Canada from Greece. After retiring at the end of August, Amanatides plans on doing volunteer work in a hospital, and spending time caring for her 90-year-old mother. Computer interest seems to run in her family — her son is a professor in computer sciences at York University.

George Brown print shops are going green. They are now using recycled paper for the majority of their work. Called "Enviro-50," the paper is made with 50 per cent recycled products. As well, College bookstores are featuring a new product line called "Futura," a recycled paper product line featuring items such as envelopes, writing pads, file folders and computer paper.

The Human Resources Department reports the following staff changes:

New support staff include: **Sheryl Barton** and **Olia Ciurpita** in the Fashion District Day-Care Centre;

Charlotte Harrysson in the Waterpark Day-Care Centre; **Janet Knechtel-McDermott** at the St. James switchboard; **Patti McKay** at the Scotia Tower Day-Care Centre; **Norman Skolnik** in Mechanical Systems Technology at Casa Loma; **Jim Tsang** in Integrated Business Systems at Casa Loma, and **Beth Poppel** in the Admissions Office at St. James.

Susan Abbott was appointed to a faculty position in Futures.

Internal transfers include: **Vickie Espinosa**, from Math and Science at Casa Loma to Continuing Education, 258 Adelaide St. E.; **Elma Reardon**, from St. James Admissions to Registrar's Office at 500 MacPherson; **Lynn Wilson**, from Early Childhood Education at Nightingale to Nightingale Day-Care Centre; **Veronica Eccles** from Library Services at Nightingale to Library Services at Casa Loma; and **Sally Quan**, a faculty member from the Health Sciences Division is now teaching the Effective Learner course at Casa Loma.

Chandranie Ram is now **Chandranie Ramrattan**.

Faculty retirements include: **Vivienne Mitchell**, Business; **George (Ralph) Albert**, Hospitality; **Aubrey Barron**, Graphic Arts; **Barry Glover**, Electrical Technology; **Wallace Jollymore**, Mechanical Systems Technology; **Joan Lloyd**, Health Sciences; **Maciej Morawski**, Graphic Arts; **William Rennie**, Health Sciences; **Anne Smith**, English and Liberal Studies; **Shirley Stalker**, Business; and **John Urquhart**, Business. Other retirements include: **Robert Anthony**, Library Services, Casa Loma; **Heidi Yamashita**, Health Sciences; **June Allan**, Bookstores at St. James; **Ruth Beairst**, Campus Management at St. James; **Gladys Hubner**, Food Services; and **John Murguly**, Paul Brajovic and **Francesco Carbone**, Caretaking.

Leaving the College are: **Karin Hayes**, **Peter Avery**, **Dan Covello**, **Caroline Duetz**, **Earl Durst**, **Ann Frenette**, **Jean Gillis**, **Randy Jewers**, **Gordon McPherson**, **Antonio Mejia-Villalobos** and **Maria Vela**.

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